

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/650,691

Examiner

Tom V. Sheng

Applicant(s)

HUANG, HSIANG-YU

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 6/26/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a computer system provided with hotkeys. A system management interrupt occurs when one of the hotkeys are being pressed. A hotkey event would determine whether the operating system running is of a first or second type. A status value corresponding to the hotkey pressed is read. If the OS is of the first type, the BIOS would implement a function corresponding to the status value. If the OS is of the second type, the BIOS would transfer the status value to the OS and the OS would implement a function corresponding to the status value.

Independent claims 1 and 10 identify the uniquely distinct features, "reading a status value corresponding to the pressed hotkey from the BIOS, and transferring the read status value to a corresponding driving device implementing one of a plurality of hotkey functions if the operating system is of the first type" and "reading a status value corresponding to the pressed hotkey from the BIOS, and transferring the read status value to the operating system to drive a corresponding device implementing one of a plurality of hotkey functions if the operating system is of the second type."

Admitted Prior Art, hereinafter APA, teaches a similar method for implementing hotkey functions (fig. 3). A hotkey event identifies whether the operating system is MS 98/ME or MS 2000/XP. In the case that the OS is MS 98/ME, scan code from keyboard 130 is transferred to a hotkey driver identifying status value and driving a corresponding device to implement the hotkey function. In the case that the OS is MS 2000/XP, the

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embedded controller 1261 instead identifies a corresponding status value and drives a corresponding device to implement the hotkey function. However, APA does not teach the reading of status value from the BIOS and transferring the status value to either a corresponding driver device or the operating system depending on the type of operating system running.

Baik et al. (US 6,529,219 B1), hereinafter Baik, teaches the use of smart buttons that allows a user to directly select and execute an application program in a shell program via the smart/shell buttons (Abstract). In particular, Baik teaches smart button driver 43 is driven by operating system 41, which in turn is driven by BIOS 32, which directly interfaces keyboard controller 31. However, the selecting and executing an application program in a shell program by pressing a hotkey does not correspond in any way to the reading of status value from the BIOS and transferring the status value to either a corresponding driver device or the operating system depending on the type of operating system running.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V. Sheng whose telephone number is (571) 272-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tom Sheng
September 13, 2006

AMR A. AWAD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

